

NEWHOUSE, and my colleagues from across the aisle for working in good faith in search of a solution to a long-standing issue in our agricultural community.

Workforce shortages are crippling our most important industries. In the Sixth District of Minnesota, agriculture and manufacturing have suffered the most. Farmers need assurances they will be able to maintain their farm over the long term and that includes having a reliable workforce.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5038 fell short of addressing key changes to our temporary worker visa programs.

While we have more work to do, I appreciate my colleagues' efforts to find solutions to the challenges.

HAVE A FAIR TRIAL IN THE SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country.

I rise today with my mnemonic notes in hand to discuss impeachment. As we all know, there is an expectation of a trial in the Senate. The people of the United States of America expect a fair trial, not a fake trial.

Well, what is a fake trial? A fake trial exists when you have the equivalent of the foreperson of the jury indicating that he is coordinating efforts and working with the person who is accused; that is the President. The majority leader is indicating that he is working with the President, and he is a part of the jury. That is a fake trial.

You have a fake trial when you don't allow material, relevant witnesses to come forth and give their testimony. It is undisputed.

It is agreed to by most persons with some understanding of what is going on, that Mr. John Bolton, the National Security Advisor, former, is a material witness and should be heard. He has not been heard and has indicated that he will testify if subpoenaed. Mr. Bolton ought to be subpoenaed and he ought to be heard so that we can have a fair trial; not a fake trial.

It won't be a trial. Here is what it will be: It will be a briefing. If you simply call the Members to order, Mr. Majority Leader, and if you simply read what has been presented to you from the House, that is nothing more than a briefing.

And if the end result is something other than the President being convicted, all you have done is postpone justice. That is it. You are just postponing justice, but you also have done one additional thing. You will have said to the people of this country that the balance of power that you are there to protect is something that you would neglect.

The balance of power is something that we must have if we are not to have a monarchy. If we are to maintain de-

mocracy, there has to be a balance of power. The House of Representatives has to have the opportunity to investigate. The President blocked witnesses, blocked evidence that is of another nature—written evidence, if you will.

He has blocked evidence and witnesses, and witnesses are evidence, and we and the Members of the House have impeached him—and he will be impeached forever, by the way. We have impeached him for impeding a congressional investigation.

In so doing, we expect the Senate to at least protect the balance of power. That is what the House is here for. We are the sword of Damocles when it comes to the President. We are there, hanging there to let him know that he can be punished in the Senate by virtue of the House having impeached—punished in the sense that he will be removed from office, not in the sense that he would ever go to jail.

Finally this, on the question of war or peace: Mr. President, I believe Iran has given you an off-ramp. I think you ought to take the off-ramp that is going to lead to deescalation because it also leads to the road of peace.

I am a person who believes in peace. Choose peace. Choose the off-ramp that has been given to you and give us an opportunity to move forward with the work of the country. You will still be impeached, however.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

SUPPORT LIFESAVING AGENT ORANGE BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the thousands of Vietnam war veterans who served our country but are unable to receive the VA benefits they earned and were promised.

When Mr. Bill Rhodes from Mena, Arkansas, first reached out to my office several years ago, his case seemed simple. He just needed our assistance in filing a benefits claim with the VA. But we soon learned he wasn't eligible because the VA didn't extend the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Rhodes isn't a unique case. There are thousands of other veterans across the country who put their lives on the line during the Vietnam war. They made it home safely, only to learn years later that exposure to Agent Orange was making them sick.

Military personnel involved with the storage and transportation of Agent Orange suffered the worst rates of exposure. The average concentration of the toxic chemical was 13 times the recommended rate for domestic use.

Despite constant reassurance that it was safe and harmless to handle during the war, veterans began reporting symptoms of lymphoma, leukemia, respiratory cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, digestive disorders, and other diseases.

Thanks to the passage of the Blue Water Navy Act last year, we are finally seeing progress as of January 1. Veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam are finally able to receive benefits for their exposure.

This bill also included language I introduced that extends benefits to children born with spina bifida as a result of their parent's exposure to toxic herbicides.

The Blue Water Navy Act is a big win for many veterans, but our work is not finished.

Mr. Horace Wynn, another Vietnam veteran in our district, reached out this past year regarding his diagnosis and its relation to Agent Orange.

Mr. Wynn's advocacy is why I introduced the bipartisan Keeping Our Promises Act, which would make an additional nine medical conditions eligible for benefits that stem from Agent Orange exposure.

I also reintroduced a bill from the 115th Congress, H.R. 2201, that would allow Vietnam-era veterans who served in Thailand to apply for benefits based on exposure to Agent Orange. This bill is a direct result of my conversations with Mr. Rhodes, and Arkansas Senator JOHN BOOZMAN has introduced the same legislation in the Senate.

Veteran organizations across the country are mailing letters of support in orange envelopes to their elected Representatives, urging them to support these lifesaving bills. The least we can do is listen. But we should do more. We must pass these bills for our Nation's veterans. They deserve it.

Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to serve their country. In return, we promised that we would provide assistance for their medical bills and benefits. It is past time we keep those promises.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to join me in getting these bills passed and signed into law.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the impending impacts of climate change on our planet and the unquestionable impact that all of us are aware of.

Over the world, we see prolonged droughts fueling disastrous fires. Over the last 6 months we have watched horrific bushfires in Australia with tremendous losses. People have died, half a billion animals have been lost, and millions of acres of land have been swallowed up by flames.

As a lifelong resident of California, I have witnessed similar devastation in